

THE PERISCOPE

INSIDE STORY

The Crank Front

Getting his name in the hometown newspaper was once a prime ambition of the U.S. fighting man. But things are different in Vietnam. Pilots aboard the nuclear carrier Enterprise, on the scene less than three weeks, already are so concerned by the crank mail their families are receiving from antiwar groups that they are hesitant about giving hometowns to reporters.

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New Dimension for Vietnam

The U.S. Navy plans to mount a full-scale offensive against the Viet Cong on the 3,000 miles of rivers and canals lacing South Vietnam's Mekong Delta. By next summer, the Navy will build up a fleet of about 100 new, water-jet powered, shallow-draft patrol boats with plastic hulls and American crews. Until now, the U.S. has only had advisers with the Vietnamese Navy, primarily landing assault troops.

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LBJ's Top Ten

LBJ has quietly raised the salaries of his ten special assistants from \$28,500 to the ceiling level of \$30,000. The ten: Bill Moyers, McGeorge Bundy, George Reedy, Jack Valenti, Marvin Watson, counsel Lee White, Douglass Cater, Joseph Califano (who has Moyers' old job of preparing legislation), Jake Jacobsen (counsel and Congressional liaison), and No. 1 speechwriter Harry McPherson.

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Trouble at the CIA

CIA chief William F. Raborn is fighting to stop what he considers a campaign by some of his own staff to discredit him. The admiral's concern is over high-level leaks of information critical of his administration. He has already exiled one top aide to the field and others may follow.

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